

&c., amounted to more than six hundred volumes, and the success which has attended their sale is an indication of the excellence of the publications.

He was a man of great energy, immense power of work, and great shrewdness. Constable had shown that books of a light and popular character would, if sold at a low price, meet with an extensive sale. Mr. Bohn proved that works of a solid cast, such as had been hitherto attainable only at high prices, would excite a remunerative demand if brought out at low rates. He certainly was one of the chief pioneers of cheap literature.

Mr. Bohn, who, for many years, had lived in York Street, Covent Garden, eventually resided entirely at Twickenham, where he devoted himself to gardening, and buying china and pictures.

Mr. Bohn married, in 1831, a daughter of the late Mr. Simpkin, who, with her two sons and daughter, survive him.

He was elected a Fellow of the Society on January 11, 1861.

JOHN HENRY DALLMEYER. In the annual report last year the Council were only able briefly to announce their regret at the news of the *décease* of this gentleman, who was for many years a member of this Society. They desire to add some further tribute to one who rendered, by his optical skill, such important service to Astronomy.

Mr. Dallmeyer commenced his career in this country in the employ of the late Mr. Andrew Ross (afterwards his father-in-law), under whose encouragement and tuition he cultivated and manifested his capabilities in both the mechanical and optical departments of his calling. His name was first brought to public notice in Sir John Herschel's article on "The Telescope" (in the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 8th edition), in which a list of the most important refractors then known is given, and, as to several, it is noted that Mr. Dallmeyer laid claim "to the personal execution and the computation of their curvatures."

At the death of Mr. A. Ross in 1859, Mr. Dallmeyer started business for himself, confining his attention at first almost entirely to the astronomical telescope; he constructed several very fine object glasses, some of which were employed in the recent eclipse and transit of *Venus* expeditions. He did not construct many large instruments, the largest being of 8-in. aperture; but his process of polishing (a long and difficult one, conducted under water) enabled him to produce a "black" polish on the surfaces rarely met with.

At the International Exhibition of 1862 Mr. Dallmeyer showed that he had turned his attention to the construction and improvement of the photographic lens, and it is in "photographic optics" that he chiefly proved himself a thorough master of his subject, and rendered such important services to photography in all its branches.

His improvements in lenses for all kinds of work, and for

which he took out many patents, followed rapidly one after another. He was rewarded by the first honours as an exhibitor, and received from foreign Governments decorations in recognition of his services. The topographical departments of our own and other Governments left the optical work entirely in Mr. Dallmeyer's hands.

It is chiefly upon photographic optics that he contributed papers to periodicals, and his practical pamphlet "On the Choice and Use of Photographic Lenses" is well known. In the furtherance of celestial photography Mr. Dallmeyer aided largely in the construction of the photo-heliograph. The first that he supplied was to the Russian Government in 1863 for the Wilna Observatory, for taking 4-in. pictures of the Sun. This proved a great success, and the Harvard College Observatory was supplied with one the following year.

In 1873 five photo-heliographs of 4-in. aperture and 5-ft. focal length with secondary magnifiers, giving 4-in. Sun pictures, were supplied to the Government. These were all mounted on universal equatorial stands, and went to various destinations for the transit of *Venus* expeditions in 1874. They have been since employed in solar photography, and some have lately been fitted with new magnifiers giving 8-in. pictures.

Mr. Dallmeyer's work in the construction of microscope object-glasses is well known and appreciated.

His last effort was in the "Optical Lantern," which he endeavoured to make a scientific and perfect instrument at the request of his old friend the Rev. F. Hardwich, who was also the first to test and to report on the first photographic lens that Mr. Dallmeyer constructed. The importance of the Optical Lantern has asserted itself, and Mr. Dallmeyer's work did what was necessary in giving the true rendering in colour and line.

For some three years previous to his decease he suffered from ill-health, due to overwork, and was obliged to make several voyages and journeys for restoration. During the last voyage which he undertook, he expired on December 30, 1883, in his fifty-second year, while between Tasmania and New Zealand. His affectionate and modest disposition made him endeared to all that knew him, and his indomitable energy prevented him from sooner relaxing his hand from his work, which he truly loved, or we might still have had him among us.

He was elected a Fellow of this Society on June 14, 1861.

JAMES COLLETT EBDEN was born at Loddon, Norfolk, on the 14th of August, 1794, and died at the vicarage, Great Stukeley, Hunts, on February 15, 1884, in the 90th year of his age, being at that date the Senior Fellow of the Society. He was the son of Mr. John Ebdon of Haughley, Suffolk, by his second wife Elizabeth, daughter of Anthony Collett, Esq., of Eyke, and granddaughter of Robert May, Esq., of Sutton, who was High Sheriff of Suffolk in 1758. The Suffolk family of Collett had

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